

THE BRITISH COLONIST.
Monday Morning, June 10, 1867.
TO ADVERTISERS.
Transit advertisements must be paid for in advance.
TO AGENTS.
Settlements of accounts will be required monthly, or the supply of papers will be discontinued. The daily and weekly issues will be furnished at the lowest cash rates, and an exception will be made to this rule.

The War on the Plains.
All through the country lying between the western terminus of the Pacific Railroad and Green River in Nebraska—a stretch of some 1100 miles—the native tribes have broken out in open hostility to the whites. The mail coaches are stopped and plundered, the drivers and occupants killed and scalped and their bodies left for the prairie dogs to devour. Telegraph stations are attacked, the operators murdered, the habitations burned, and the wires reported “down” more than half the time. In some cases the poles are burned for miles—the Indians having learned that the “devil’s lightning,” as they formerly termed the telegraph, is used by their enemies as a means of transmitting news of the outrages and appealing to the troops for aid. Solitary travellers are cut off; farmers who have settled along the line of wagon-road with their families are attacked, their property destroyed and themselves either killed or driven into the forts for safety. In one instance a fort, (Buford) garrisoned by nearly one hundred soldiers, was besieged by two thousand redskins for three weeks, and nothing but the vigilance and resolute pluck of the defenders saved the place from capture and its garrison from massacre. In another instance, in January last, the Indians decoyed one hundred officers and men from Fort Phil. Kearney into a ravine, where they surrounded and slaughtered them to a man. The country is as level as a floor, with occasional strips of wooded land and here and there a low range of hills. The number of warriors in arms against the whites is estimated at from eight to twelve thousand large, powerful men—by the side of whom the Indians of this section appear like dwarfs—well skilled in the use of arms with which they are supplied by the Mormons, who are interested in driving back the waves of civilization that have commenced to flow towards their saintly retreat from both sides of the continent. Against these rebellious subjects, General Hancock, an American commander of considerable renown acquired in the Southern war, has been sent with a force variously estimated at from 10,000 to 20,000 veteran soldiers. Thus far the operations of the General have not been attended with success. He has been on the “war-path” since the first of March, but his operations have been confined to making treaties with the typhes of each tribe while their *tenas* men are engaged a hundred or two miles in another direction committing outrages of the most diabolical character on the white settlers and travellers. There seems to be a lack of vigor in the management of this war which can only be accounted for by the inexperience of the commanding officer and his men with Indian warfare. Regular soldiers have never made headway against Indians. The Florida war with the tribe of Billy Bowlegs (a noted Seminole chief) lasted fifteen years and cost the Government \$25,000,000. It might have been on the carpet to this day had not volunteers—men who thoroughly understood the habits of their red foe and knew his skulking places among the everglade swamps—been sent against him, when a single campaign sufficed to end the war. In Washington Territory and Oregon the Indians set the force that the Government sent against them at defiance, and did pretty much as they pleased with the country until the settlers, aroused to vigorous action by the ineffectiveness of the regulars, took to the field with the dreaded Mississippi rifle and mowed the redskins down like grain before the sickle. The Indian policy of the United States is a humane one. The tribes are treated well and presented with a great many blankets and large sums of money annually. Indian Agents are appointed for the different reservations and districts, the savages are taught how to build substantial dwellings and to cultivate the land, and, above all, means are employed to keep them from obtaining arms and the maddening “firewater.” But with all these guarantees of comfort and the precautions against vice, unprincipled white men succeed in smuggling both weapons and liquor into the reservations; drunken orgies follow, and the agents soon lose control over their wards. With the best intentions, the Indian policy of the United States has failed. It is too temporizing. The Indians cannot understand kind treatment. They get to believe that the white men are afraid of them, and, impressed with the idea that being the natural owners of the soil they are alone entitled to reside upon it, emboldened by drink, they rebel against

the agents and “take to the road.” Often, we know, gangs of white men provoke the Indians to such an extent as to force them to take up arms in their own defence, and cause them to regard the palefaces as enemies. But in a majority of instances, whiskey and the bad advice of their Mormon neighbors, combined with a natural restiveness while under control, impel them to the commission of frightful outrages. Last night’s despatches speak gloomily of the state of Indian affairs on the Plains, the mail agent having notified the Government that unless steps are taken to protect the coaches the service must be abandoned. Nothing but a swift and terrible punishment visited upon the savages will put an end to these troubles. The treaties made are only respected so long as the army remains within gunshot. The moment it leaves one tribe to “pacificate” another, the war breaks out again behind them. If General Hancock would maintain his reputation as an able commander, he must abandon his pacific policy and give and take some hard knocks for the remainder of the season.

Annexation will Bring Ruin to Victoria.

Messrs Editors—Your cotemporary has again “put his foot into it.” After wasting ink and paper for six weeks in telling the island people that the Colon was for sale and could be had for the asking, he suddenly astonished the believers in his doctrine by declaring that “it was not for sale.” Some time ago I read a communication in your journal stating that if Vancouver Island were ceded to the Americans the whole weight of American capital would be cast in favor of Seattle, which possesses an excellent harbor, and is, in addition, the terminus of a natural pass through the mountains for a railway. I did not place much reliance on the statement of the writer at the time; but the leading article in your cotemporary of yesterday convinces me that your writer was correct in his assertion. From your cotemporary I take the following:

“Our only chance of rail communication is at the Northern Pacific Railroad, and when the line is completed that road reaches Seattle, as it will do in five years, Victoria will either be in commerce, shipping, manufacture and population, the second city on the coast, or a beggarly heap of ruins, sheltering a tribe of savages.”

The above is quite enough to satisfy me that if our British connection be severed, Victoria will soon “become a beggarly heap of ruins, sheltering a tribe of savages.” A vessel that can sail to Victoria can sail to Seattle, and no business man would bring a ship from China, say, to Victoria, unload her here and ship the cargo hence to Seattle for transmission by rail to the interior. No! he would bring goods from Seattle to Victoria and load them here for foreign parts when he could place them on a ship at Seattle and sail direct for the port of destination. Common sense would cry out against the adoption of such a silly policy. With a road across the continent through British territory and a terminus anywhere on our coast, Victoria is secure, because there are no safe harbors on the mainland to enter into competition with her. Place the country in the hands of the Americans and her fate is sealed, for the simple reason that while there are no good harbors on our coast line, there are half a dozen on theirs. Did New Westminster possess a fine harbor, Victoria would not have had an existence. As the case stands now, Vancouver Island is essential to the British mainland for the reason that it furnishes what the mainland lacks—harbors. Cede Vancouver Island to the Americans and you render British Columbia valueless because it is unapproachable.

ISLAND HOME.
(From the London Daily News.)

Bank of British Columbia.

The ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of British Columbia was held yesterday, at the London Tavern. Mr. T. W. L. Macdonald in the chair.

The report of the directors and the accounts were taken as read. The report stated:

“In the Colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island trade having been in an unsatisfactory state, the directors deemed it prudent to curtail considerably the business of the branches there; consequently the profits for the half-year are small, the balance at credit of profit and loss account on 31st of December last being \$757 12s. 9d. The branches at Portland and San Francisco, on the other hand, have been transacting an increased amount of safe and profitable business. The directors do not consider it advisable on the present occasion to recommend a dividend, but propose to appropriate \$2334 to meet bad debts incurred during the half-year, leaving the sum of £2553 12s. 9d. to be carried forward. It will be satisfactory to the shareholders to know that material reductions have been made in the expenses of the bank’s management. The saving that will thus be effected during the current year, the sounder basis of business in the Colonies, and the further safe development of the branches at Portland and San Francisco, warrant the directors in expecting a more satisfactory result in the future. The recent union of Vancouver Island and British Columbia will, it is believed, by stopping antagonistic legislation and reducing expenses of Government, remove impediments to the progress of the Colony, and as the natural resources of the country are not less than 200 shares each. He wished to know if, as the chairman had promised to all the correspondence between the branches and the head office (cries of “Certainly not”).

The Chairman—Certainly not. Mr. Murrell then suggested that as a means of gaining the confidence of the public the directors should increase their holdings to not less than 200 shares each. He wished to know if, as the chairman had promised to all the correspondence between the branches and the head office (cries of “Certainly not”).

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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, DEC. 31, 1866.

To deposit paid, Dec. 1866.....	\$ 8,940 0 0
To amount carried over from Oct. 3, 1865.....	2,000 0 0
To interest on deposits.....	1,500 0 0
To salaries and other expenses at head office and branches.....	9,860 2 7
To directors’ remuneration.....	800 0 0
To balance of profit, Dec. 31, 1866.....	5,787 12 9
	\$21,007 12 9

Balance of profit and loss account brought from June 30, 1866.....\$21,044 1 1
By profit for six months ended Dec. 31, 1866.....5,787 12 9
On bills not due.....16,003 1 8
\$21,007 12 9

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that before doing so he would make a few very brief remarks. The directors received several communications from shareholders at a distance, expressive of much alarm, and exhibiting so much timidity that although they would be replied to in detail a general answer would be out of place. The burden of these letters was, that the directors had declined to be nominated, as he did not wish to hold a seat at the board if any one large shareholder objected to it.

Mr. R. P. Webber was re-elected as auditor, and in the place of Mr. David Allison, deceased, Mr. Robertson was elected as second auditor.

After a few words of acknowledgment from Mr. Robertson, the meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman.

Cariboo.
(From the Cariboo Sentinel, May 27.)

WILLIAMS CREEK.

We have but little mining news to record this week that will excite the attention of our readers at a distance, although every step in the progress of a claim is viewed with interest by those residing here, and for that reason we are more minute sometimes in our particulars.

Some little interest was felt last week by the discovery of a channel 300 feet back in the hill behind the old Downie claim. It appears that a company called the West Britain co’y bottomed a shaft at 47 feet and got a prospect of \$3 50 to the pan, and are preparing to wash: Bradley Nicholson co’y and Taylor co’y are hard at work ground sluicing. Wide West co’y are making about wages. Forward co’y are setting their sluices, and will commence washing to-day. McLaren co’y have commenced hydraulic. The creek claims from the Wilson co’y down to Richfield, have all begun to ground sluice, and will not clean up for some time. The Red Rock Flume co’y are busy blasting rock and laying their flume, and will be ready, it is expected, to ground sluice in the course of another week or ten days. The bench or hill claims between Richfield and the canyon will not be worked until sufficient water can be obtained from the Flume co’y’s ditch. The Chippis co’y, below the canyon, have just bottomed their shaft, and will start washing next week. El Dorado (tunnel) are still prospecting. Baldhead co’y have been busy part of last week building their dam, but washed up enough to pay expenses. Drain co’y are now within 30 or 40 feet of the old Mitchell’s shaft, which when reached, will partly tap the Sheep Skin co’y. Hibernia co’y washed up the dirt that was taken out of their shaft, and had 9½ cts. Camp co’y are sinking a new shaft. Cariboo co’y washed up on Wednesday 47 cts. Davis co’y washed up for week 130 cts. Borealis co’y washed up for week 100 cts. Lillooet co’y are running a drift to tap the bed rock drain out of ground they want to work. Never Sweat co’y are setting sluices and getting ready to wash. Moffat co’y are washing surface tailings. Cameron co’y are making expenses. Prairie Flower co’y having finished their tunnel, will commence washing to-day they have run 300 feet in something less than three weeks, by working three eight hour shifts.

Most of the claims below the Cameron co’y are flooded with water.

STOUTS GULCH.

The water is plentiful in this gulch, and the different companies are taking advantage of it. Floyd co’y having during the winter cleaned and secured their tunnel, and laid therein a capacious flume, have managed to open their diggings, which were badly caved, from the surface; they will now be able to work their ground advantageously, and will take out some big pay in the course of the season. Alturas co’y, who have a drain through the whole length of their claim, are erecting a wheel and hoisting gear, so as to work from a shaft as well as an open tunnel; when they get in thorough working order they will employ about 30 men; this claim will also pay well. T. & F. co’y, after raising a shaft at the upper end of the last named company’s tunnel, to a depth of 60 feet, were drownd out by a heavy stream of surface water; they are now endeavoring to find the shaft by running a cat on the surface. Jenkins co’y started washing from their new shaft on Thursday; this shaft is 300 feet above the old one, thus making the length of their drain tunnel about 1500 feet. Mucha Oro co’y have been unable so far to pump out their shaft; it is their intention to run a drain tunnel from the last named co’y so as to connect their ground and drain it. El Dorado co’y bottomed their shaft on Saturday and got fair prospects, they will commence drifting and washing to-day.

CONKIN GULCH.

A great deal of work is being carried on in this gulch, but no rich strikes have yet been made, although great confidence is still felt in ultimate success. Ericsson co’y washed out for last week 60 cts. United co’y washed out 124 cts. on Wednesday and 131 cts. on Sunday, making 225 cts. for the week; a dividend was declared of \$300 to the share. Reid co’y will start pumping out their diggings to-day; it is now supposed that a portion of the United co’y’s lead run through this claim.

WALKER GULCH.

Two companies are at work in this gulch ground sluicing; neither of them have washed up yet.

M’GILLUM GULCH.

There are four companies, numbering in all 11 men, at work here prospecting.

ITEMS.

The Borealis co’y washed up last Sunday, May 19th, 156 cts. for three shifts, and divided for week ending at that date \$250 to the interest.

During the present week the general revenue has been unusually large as compared with the receipts of the same period last year.

We have just seen Mr. Michael, who has wintered on Showshoe Creek, and he informs us that the company to which he belongs commenced washing about two weeks ago, and are making from \$10 to \$15 a day to the land. The pay is found by washing fire to six feet of the surface gravel. It is believed that there are good paying diggings for several miles along the banks of this creek.

We desire to call attention to the card of Dr. P. Morgan, of San Francisco, published in another column, wherein he guarantees the successful cure of diseases of the eye, ear, mouth, &c., in from four to ten weeks.

By Electric Telegraph.
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